

REVIEW ON PERCEPTION OF THE USERS ABOUT LIBRARIES' VALUE

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Abstract

Libraries had the social value not only on research and personal learning but also on establishment and vitalization of communities, provision of opportunities to share ideas between local residents and create something new, and provision of recreation to improve the residents' capability. Libraries' educational role and function relatively highly. In particular, the librarians scored very high for the items that the libraries' educational role was expanding, the libraries were a part of the educational system, and the libraries' value on reading and literacy was great, and the users thought that libraries had an value because they were a part of education and the educational system.

Key Words: *Library, libraries' Value, Social Value, Educational Value, Economic Value*

INTRODUCTION

A library is a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution. It is almost needless to reiterate how great value libraries have on this society. Libraries satisfy residents' desires to learn through lifelong education and support anyone's access to all kinds of information resources and technologies for self development regardless of their financial conditions. Local residents may prepare for their first or second job or opening a business, or they may become writers through continuous studying in libraries. Plenty of resources are shared in the libraries. Also, the libraries save earth's resources and contribute to maintenance of the environment through sharing. Libraries are evaluated to have high economic value. Providing information to companies and local communities in need, the libraries are considered to give help to local business development, increase income of stores around the libraries, and have a positive effect on creating jobs.

Public libraries enable preschoolers to participate in all kinds of programs for increasing their adaptability, literacy, and reading ability. According to the result of a research, the level of literacy and educational achievement of students living in areas where the libraries are located is higher than for students living in areas where no libraries are located. Likewise, the value of libraries on the nation and local communities is found to be very high. Nevertheless, the reason for re-emphasizing the impacts and values of libraries on this society is that the value of specialized libraries such as college libraries is devalued to librarians in the field. Furthermore, the results of studies up to now contain evaluation of economic and educational values in depth but without the comprehensive value of libraries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been considerable studies performed in domestic and foreign countries over a period of time measuring the value of libraries. As the effect of libraries in relation to investment cannot be directly calculated, their political, economic, social, and cultural values based on issues like the users' perceptions should be determined. First, for a study related to service and use values of libraries, Chung (2005) suggested a new approach to estimate economic value of special libraries' major services as a need for estimating the economic value of special libraries operated by such as companies or institutes was raised. Through feasibility assessment for theories and models of previous researches, benefit measurement elements and analysis methods applicable to this study were drawn, and universal validity and applicability were the standards for conformity assessment.

Pyo, Ko, and Shim (2011) analyzed factors having an effect on the use value of public libraries. They tried to understand the impact of various factors such as characteristics of respondents and libraries, using an estimation method of CVM (Contingent Valuation Method) that set values according to statements of users. Factors such as satisfaction of librarians, fields of interaction for residents, degree of economic support, and support for culture and art had an effect on satisfaction and perception for three types of services: information, facility, and programming. This study comprehensively analyzed the impact that was estimated for all kinds of domestic public libraries to provide information regarding the attribute of value that was evaluated by users according to area and scale.

While, Chung and Chung (2008) suggested DM and IBM formats as the alternative of CVM, which had been used to analyze the economic value of cultural programs, to estimate the economic value of cultural programs. Regarding the investment value of establishing a database and providing copy service of original text, Ryu and Lee (2006) intended to estimate the economic value of an original information service to determine whether it was valuable to invest a lot of money to establish a database of libraries. Conditional value estimating methods were applied to estimate the economic value, and virtual scenarios were designed to estimate the value of an original information service of domestic books, which was a non commodity.

Ko, Pyo, and Shim (2012) analyzed the adequacy of various estimation elements, which should be considered in the process of estimating the value of university libraries, and methodologies applied to the estimation, and investigated the application possibility to domestic university libraries in the future. Pyo (2006) analyzed the value of public libraries by applying consumer's surplus and conditional value estimating methods. Furthermore, the economic value of public libraries directly having an effect on a person was estimated by those using it, with 84% of users responding that the public libraries had an effect on their personal lives.

Pyo and Chung (2008) estimated the use value of public libraries by four approaches of time value, surplus value of alternative service, service value of the library, and integrated value of the library. The value estimated by time value in comparison with cost, which was the opportunity cost of users, was the highest with 11 times, but the value estimated by amount willing to pay was low at the rate of 0.3. The result of the estimation, factors having an effect on each value, and processes of estimation were integrated to suggest application methods for each value. Ko and Shim (2011) indicated that the value of libraries and libraries' services were traditionally agreed to be positive, and it was good to estimate the economic feasibility of the libraries' value for specifying the value being shared between various persons concerned with the library. They comprehensively summarized and analyzed various theories and related estimation cases to prepare the groundwork of future studies.

CONCLUSION

The value of libraries' had been claimed by a number of researchers in the field of library and information science and libraries. With libraries, people had kept and distributed the world's knowledge and the knowledge and wisdom of mankind had been developmentally passed down to the future generation, and libraries had supported the development of the society based on it. The role was expanded to provide local residents with cultural and reading activities in libraries, and they could perform various kinds of creative activities in the infinite imagination space to improve the quality of life. Libraries helped immigrants quickly adapt to the local communities and multicultural families gain more understanding of the society.

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